

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are allowed.

Claims 12 and 13 have been rejected.

Claim 12 is canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 1-11 and 13 are pending in the application.

Claims 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pike (GB 2306855) in view of Henry et al. (US 5845215). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 has been canceled.

Claim 13 has been amended to include all of the recitations of allowed claim 1, in method form. Inasmuch as claim 13 includes all of the elements of allowed claim 1, claim 13 is now deemed allowable as well for the same reasons.

Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

The other references of record have been reviewed and applicant's invention is deemed patentably distinct and nonobvious over each taken alone or in combination.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants request that the above rejections be withdrawn.

Inasmuch as this amendment distinguishes all of the applicants' claims over the prior art references, for the many reasons indicated above, passing of this case is now believed to be in order. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.


No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In the event that the Examiner deems the present application non-allowable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' attorney at the number indicated below so that the prosecution of the present case may be advanced by the clarification of any continuing rejection or through an Examiner's amendment.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessitated by actions taken herein to Deposit Account 50-2117.

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Respectfully submitted,
Thomas et al.

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